

**COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY**  
**Regular Meeting – July 12, 2010, 3:00 PM**  
**73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Conference Room 115**  
**Palm Desert, CA 92260**

**Tele-conference location:**

State of California  
Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth St., Room 1305  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**AGENDA**

**1.0     Call to Order & Introductions**

**2.0     Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2010 meeting** (See Attachment 1)

**3.0     Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda**

At this time any member of the public may address the Governing Board on any item not on the agenda. The Board cannot take action on an item not on the agenda, but it can place it on the agenda for a future meeting. For items on the agenda, there will be an opportunity to speak when that item is heard. The Chair may limit the time for each speaker. Any written material may be submitted to the person taking minutes.

**4.0     Closed Session – No matter is scheduled**

Pursuant to Government Code sections 11126 (a)(1), 11126 (e)(1) and 11126.3(a) the Board may hold a closed session to discuss and take possible action on personnel matters and or receive advice of counsel on pending or potential litigation. In addition, pursuant to Government Code section 11126 (c) 7 (A) the Board may meet in closed session with its negotiator prior to the purchase or sale of real property by or for the state body to give instructions to its negotiator regarding the price and terms of payment for the purchase or sale. Confidential memoranda related to these issues may be considered during such closed session discussions.

**5.0     Information items**

- 5.1     Status of the Proposition 84 bond program (Oral report from staff.)
- 5.2     CVMC acquisition priorities (Oral report from staff.)

**6.0     Action items – public hearing** (If there is any member of the public who wishes to address the Governing Board before action is taken, testimony from the public should be taken prior to a vote.)

- 6.1     Resolution 2010-02 approving a local assistance grant to the Friends of the Desert Mountains or an inter-agency agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board to match other grant funds for the acquisition of land on the alluvial fan of the Santa Rosa Mountains. (See Attachment 2.)

**7.0     Reports**

7.1     Written reports from staff (See Attachment 3.)

7.2     Board Member comments and reports from Conservancy member agencies. This is an opportunity for any of the Governing Board Members to present a report on matters of interest regarding the agency he or she represents.

**8.0     Adjourn to the September 13, 2010 meeting.**

This agenda is available on our website at <http://www.cvmc.ca.gov>. Anyone with questions about any item on the agenda may contact the Conservancy at 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 205, Palm Desert, CA 92260. The phone number is (760) 776-5026.

## **ATTACHMENT 1 – July 12, 2010**

**COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
REGULAR MEETING  
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 115  
Palm Desert, California  
January 11, 2010 - 3:00 p.m.**

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

John Benoit, Riverside County Supervisor, District IV  
Buford Crites, State Assembly Appointee  
John Donnelly, Wildlife Conservation Board  
Jim Ferguson, City of Palm Desert– *Chairman*  
Jim Foote, U.S. Forest Service (non-voting)  
Kristy Franklin, City of La Quinta  
John Kalish, Bureau of Land Management  
Patrick Kemp, Natural Resources Agency  
Paul Marchand, City of Cathedral City  
Ron Meepos, City of Rancho Mirage  
Richard Milanovich, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  
Chris Mills, City of Palm Springs  
Al Muth, University of California  
Robert Schladales, Department of Finance  
Larry Spicer, City of Indian Wells  
Ellen Lloyd Trover, Senate Rules Committee Appointee

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Karl Baker, City of Desert Hot Springs  
Kathy Dice, California State Parks  
Rick Hutcheson, City of Palm Springs  
Eddy Konno, California Department of Fish and Game  
Curt Sauer, National Park Service  
Joan Taylor, Governor's Appointee

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Bill Havert, Executive Director  
Geary Hund, Associate Director  
Kerrie Godfrey, Staff Services Analyst

#### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

None

#### **VACANT POSITIONS:**

None

#### **1.0 Call to Order & Introductions**

The Chairman, Jim Ferguson, declared that a quorum was present at 3:00 pm.

#### **2.0 Approval of Minutes of March 09, 2009 meeting**

Chairman Ferguson asked if there were any additions or changes to the March 09, 2009 Minutes. There were none. A motion was made and seconded (Muth/Trover) to approve the Minutes as distributed. The motion was adopted by all members saying “Aye” in a unanimous vote.

#### **4.0 Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda**

Chairman Ferguson asked if there were any comments on any items not on the agenda. There were none.

#### **4.0 Closed Session – No matter is scheduled**

Chairman Ferguson asked if there were any closed session items. There were none.

#### **5.0 Action items – public hearing**

##### **5.1 Election of Chair and Vice-chair.**

Bill Havert explained that the term of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson is one year, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 33506. The election is normally held at the July meeting; however, the July meeting was cancelled this year. The Board Members eligible to serve as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are the city and county representatives, the Chairperson of the Tribal Council of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, and the appointees of the Governor, the Senate Committee on Rules, and the Speaker of the Assembly. The representatives of the various state and federal agencies are not eligible.

Al Muth opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Paul Marchand nominated Ellen Lloyd Trover and Larry Spicer seconded the nomination. The Chair asked Ellen Lloyd Trover if she would accept the nomination and she accepted. The Chairman asked for additional nominations and there were none so nominations were closed. Chairman Ferguson maintained a motion to elect Ellen Lloyd Trover by acclamation. The motion was made and seconded (Marchand/Spicer). Ellen Lloyd Trover was elected for a one year term as Vice Chairman by unanimous vote.

Al Muth opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Buford Crites nominated Jim Ferguson and Richard Milanovich seconded the nomination. Jim Ferguson accepted the nomination and asked if there were any additional nominations. There were none and nominations were closed with motion and a second (Crites/Milanovich) and a unanimous voice vote. Chairman Ferguson maintained a motion to elect Jim Ferguson by acclamation. The motion was made and seconded (Crites/Milanovich). Jim Ferguson was elected for a one year term as Chairman by unanimous vote.

##### **5.2 Resolution supporting designation of a portion of Highway 74 as the Roy Wilson Memorial Highway.**

Bill Havert explained that more than one Board Member had expressed a desire to honor Roy Wilson in some way. He noted that one way to do this is the designation of a portion of Highway 74 in the National Monument as the Roy Wilson Memorial Highway. This is supported by Friends of the Desert Mountains and may be supported by the Coachella Valley Association of Governments. With Roy’s many years of service on the Conservancy’s Governing Board and his strong support for the National Monument and conservation, the suggested dedication seems to be a very appropriate way to recognize Roy’s many contributions to the Coachella Valley. Bill noted that the designation has to be made through action of the State Legislature. The request would come jointly from the Friends of the Desert Mountains, the Conservancy, and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments if it approves a resolution to do so.

Chairman Ferguson asked for any additional discussion on the item and there was none. He asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2010-01. A motion was made and seconded (Benoit/Marchand) to adopt the resolution. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **5.3 Adoption of Meeting Schedule for 2010.**

Chairman Ferguson asked for any discussion on the item and there was none. A motion was made and seconded (Muth/Marchand) to approve the meeting schedule for 2010. The motion was passed and the 2010 meeting schedule was adopted by unanimous vote.

## **6.0 Information Items**

### **6.1 Conflict of Interest reporting, Form 700.**

Chairman Ferguson asked when the reports were due to the CVMC staff. Kerrie Godfrey explained that the reports should be sent to the Conservancy NLT March 30, 2010 because she needs to send them to the FPPC NLT April 1, 2010. There was no additional discussion and Chairman Ferguson called for an omnibus motion to receive and file written report item 6.1. A motion was made and seconded (Marchand/Crites) to receive and file written report 6.1. The motion was adopted by all members saying "Aye" in a unanimous vote.

### **6.2 CVCC acquisitions in 2009 (oral report from staff).**

Bill Havert and Geary Hund, Conservancy staff, presented the Board with a PowerPoint presentation displaying the various land acquisitions that the Conservancy has helped the CVCC acquire as Acquisitions Manager throughout 2009. They also showed Senator Feinstein's proposed Sand to Snow National Monument, part of the California Desert Protection Act of 2010 which she recently introduced. The majority of the Riverside County portion of the proposed Monument is within Conservancy Territory. It contains proposed additions to the existing San Geronio Wilderness, on lands managed by the Forest Service, the Whitewater Canyon ACEC, a Wildlife Corridor that the Conservancy has been working on for many years, as well as a section of the Pacific Crest Trail. Bill believes this proposal will be of interest to all the jurisdictions in the Coachella Valley. Larry Spicer asked what practical impact this might have on this area. Bill answered that it highlights the importance of these areas and shows the value of the acquisition programs that the Conservancy has supported in these areas. The protection of these areas helps implement the CVMSHCP and there might be benefits to ecotourism by highlighting the various recreation and scenic values of the National Monument. Larry Spicer asked if there was a private property owner in this area and this Legislation was approved, does this change the value of their land. And may this have an impact on us if we wanted to acquire the land? Bill Havert answered that the vast majority of the land there is already federal land (BLM or USFS) and as we have experienced with the existing National Monument, highlighting it this way tends to help those agencies get better appropriations for acquisition and for management of these lands. They have a greater ability to fulfill their functions in these areas and it helps foster partnerships with other entities that own land in that area. The Wildlands Conservancy has the Mission Creek and Whitewater Preserves which we helped fund the acquisition of and then conveyed to them. They provide great opportunities for school groups to come there for environmental education and for public access and recreation opportunities. As result of these efforts, they are getting better known. John Benoit noted that he had a meeting with a representative from Senator Feinstein's office about the proposed legislation. There was no additional discussion and Chairman Ferguson called for a motion to receive and file written report item 6.2. A motion was made and seconded (Marchand/Crites) to

receive and file written report 6.2. The motion was adopted by all members saying "Aye" in a unanimous vote.

**6.3 Prognosis for availability of Prop. 84 funds.**

Patrick Kemp explained the Finance Letter dated December 17, 2008 is still in force on bond acquisitions and expenditures. He noted that we have not been given any authorization to make new commitments in the conservation area. The only new commitments are under a strict criterion in the areas of job creation or leveraging large amounts of federal funds and public safety. The bond situation remains about the same as last year. The cash situation is better than last year and according to the Director of Finance, we should be OK cash wise for the remainder of this FY but, next year could be another story. The governor has declared a state of emergency and the legislature has 45 days to meet on his proposed recommendations to solve the problem (March). He noted that it looks like the Conservancy kept busy working with other partners which is what a lot of the other Conservancies are doing also. Patrick asked if there were any questions. There was no additional discussion and Chairman Ferguson called for a motion to receive and file written report item 6.3. A motion was made and seconded (Marchand/Crites) to receive and file written report 6.3. The motion was adopted by all members saying "Aye" in a unanimous vote.

**7.0 Reports**

Chairman Ferguson called for an omnibus motion to receive and file written reports items 7.1-7.2. A motion was made and seconded (Marchand/Muth) to receive and file written reports 7.1 - 7.2. The motion was adopted by all members saying "Aye" in a unanimous vote.

**8.0 Adjourn to the March 8, 2010 meeting.**

A motion was made and seconded (Muth/Marchand) to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned without objection at 3:26 p.m.

## **ATTACHMENT 2 – July 12, 2010**

**Agenda Item 6.1** Resolution 2010-02 approving a local assistance grant to the Friends of the Desert Mountains or an inter-agency agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board to match other grant funds for the acquisition of land on the alluvial fan of the Santa Rosa Mountains.

### **BACKGROUND**

Two sections of land became available for purchase in May. They are Sections 7 and 8, Township 8 South, Range 8 East, located south of Martinez Canyon and west of the community of Oasis on the lower slope and alluvial fan of the Santa Rosa Mountains. (See attached map. Sections 7 and 8 are in the upper left of the map.) This area, from Martinez Canyon south to the county line, which borders Anza Borrego Desert State Park, contains the only extensive undisturbed alluvial fan area of the Santa Rosa Mountains. The property provides essential habitat for the endangered Peninsular bighorn sheep, contains extensive desert dry wash woodland habitat, and relates to the larger Lake Cahuilla Shoreline conservation project, which involves protection of the remaining undisturbed areas of the lakebed and shoreline of ancient Lake Cahuilla and the associated cultural and natural resources. Previously, the Conservancy participated in a partnership with WCB and BLM to acquire 5,400 acres of this area in 2001 and 2002, and in recent years the Conservancy has made grants to the Friends of the Desert Mountains to acquire an additional 60 acres in this area. The acquisition of Sections 7 and 8 would be a significant step toward accomplishing the larger project goals.

In order to pursue the potential acquisition of those sections, the Friends of the Desert Mountains entered into contingent purchase agreements for the land. One agreement covered the south half of Section 7, which is located in the Santa Rosa Mountains Wilderness within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. The other agreement covered the north half of Section 7 and all of Section 8, which for the most part are located outside the Wilderness and the Monument. Two separate agreements were used because it was anticipated that different funding sources would be used for each acquisition. BLM appeared to have funds available for the ½ section purchase and was interested in acquiring that property. For the remaining section and a half, it appeared likely that federal Section 6 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund money would be available for the purchase; these funds do, however, require a 30% match. [Section 6 grant funds actually go to the California Department of Fish and Game and their expenditure, either on behalf of DFG or as a subgrant to another entity such as the Friends, requires approval by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB).] Each purchase agreement is contingent on an appraisal's determining the market value and each agreement provides the Friends with the right to assign the purchase to another entity. As of the date of the preparation of this staff report, the appraisals are nearing completion. It is expected that the appraisals will be completed prior to the CVMC Board meeting. The purchase of the ½ section is not expected to involve any Conservancy funds as the Friends anticipates assigning the right to purchase that property to BLM after review and approval of the appraisal by the Appraisal Services Directorate on behalf of BLM. As a result, no action is required by the Conservancy Governing Board. There are several possible scenarios for the purchase of the north half of Section 7 and all of Section 8, and one of these involves the Conservancy. The scenarios, all of which assume the appraisal results in a purchase price acceptable to the Seller, are as follows:

1. Section 6 grant funds provide the full purchase price and a donation of other lands owned by the Friends provides an in-kind match. Under this scenario, the Conservancy would not provide any funds. Also under this scenario, the Friends might simply assign the right to purchase to WCB and not take title; however, if the state were not prepared to take title, Friends would take title.
2. Section 6 grant funds provide the full purchase price and, if the appraised value exceeds the purchase price, the property is purchased as a bargain sale with the Seller making a charitable contribution of the difference in value, which serves as an in-kind match. Under this scenario, the Conservancy would not provide any funds. Also under this scenario, the Friends might simply assign the right to purchase to WCB and not take title; however, if the state were not prepared to take title, Friends would take title.
3. Section 6 grant funds provide 70% of the purchase price with the remaining 30% matching funds being provided by the Friends using funds available to it from private sources. The Friends could assign the right to purchase to WCB or take title.
4. Section 6 grant funds provide 70% of the purchase price with the remaining 30% matching funds being provided by a grant from the Conservancy to the Friends or through an inter-agency agreement with WCB if the Friends assigns the right to purchase to WCB so that the state would take title and CDFG would manage the lands.

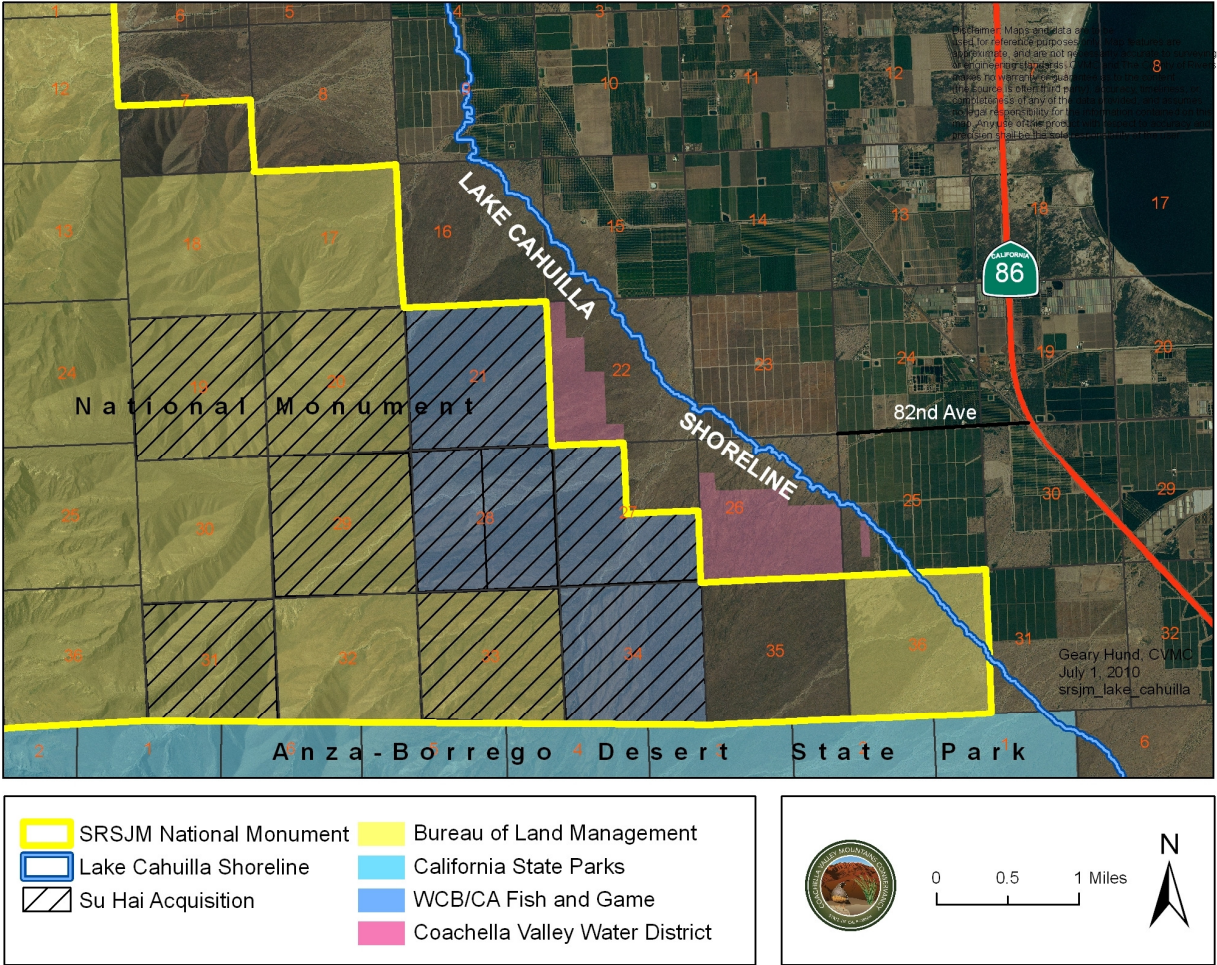
There are clearly uncertainties at this point. **The overriding issue, however, is that the time frame of the agreements and the need for the Friends to identify to WCB what the source of the match is before the WCB meeting in August require the Conservancy to act in July because the Conservancy would not meet again until September.** Pursuant to the contingent purchase agreement, the maximum amount the Friends would pay for the property is \$1,798,730. (If the appraisal is not that high, there would be no purchase unless the Seller agreed to sell at the actual appraised value.) Under scenario 4, the Section 6 grant would provide 70% of that; the 30% match would be \$539,619. Closing costs would add an additional amount estimated not to exceed \$3,000. Thus, the total maximum grant amount from the Conservancy would be \$542,619. Because the Friends could be successful in generating some funds for the match themselves, the actual grant amount could be less than this. It is proposed, therefore, that the Conservancy Governing Board approve a local assistance grant amount of \$542,619 (30% of the expected purchase price) to the Friends or, alternatively an inter-agency agreement with WCB, and authorize the Chair, or in his absence the Executive Director, to execute a grant agreement or an inter-agency agreement and take such other actions as necessary to implement a grant in that amount or such lesser amount as might be needed to enable this acquisition to occur if certain conditions are met. These are: (1) that the appraisal is approved by the Department of General Services, which will review the appraisal for use by WCB in approving a Section 6 grant; (2) WCB approves the Section 6 grant; (3) Friends is unable to secure other cash or in-kind matching sources; and (4) Seller can provide clear title to the Friends or the state; and (5) a site inspection reveals no hazardous material or dumping on the site that Seller does not agree to pay for removing prior to close of escrow.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends approval of the attached Resolution 2010-02.



Lake Cahuilla Shoreline Conservation Project Area



**RESOLUTION 2010-02 OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE  
COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION  
JULY 12, 2010**

**APPROVING A LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT TO THE FRIENDS OF THE  
DESERT MOUNTAINS FOR THE PURCHASE OF LAND ON THE ALLUVIAL  
FANS OF THE SOUTHERN SANTA ROSA MOUNTAINS**

WHEREAS, Public Resources Code Section 33501 created the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy for the purpose, among other things, of acquiring and holding, in perpetual open space, mountainous lands surrounding the Coachella Valley and natural community conservation lands, upon approval of a Natural Community Conservation Plan, for the protection of natural and cultural resources and the public's enjoyment thereof; and

WHEREAS, Public Resources Code Section 33601(e) provides that the Conservancy may "in order to further the conservancy's purposes as set forth in Section 33501, award grants to cities, counties, resource conservation districts, or nonprofit organizations...."; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Desert Mountains ("Friends") is a nonprofit organization qualified as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, and has as its purpose the acquisition and protection of land in the Coachella Valley area; and

WHEREAS, Assessor's Parcel Numbers 755-060-006, 008, and 009 comprising approximately 946.69 acres in unincorporated Riverside County in the Oasis area contain important resource values including Peninsular bighorn sheep habitat, alluvial fans, high quality desert dry wash woodlands, and an undisturbed area near the shoreline of ancient Lake Cahuilla; and

WHEREAS, it is in furtherance of the Conservancy's purposes as established in Public Resources Code Section 33501 to protect this area; and

WHEREAS, the Friends requests a local assistance grant to assist with the purchase of this property if funds are needed to provide up to a 30% match for a federal Section 6 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund grant; and

WHEREAS, the maximum grant amount needed to provide a 30% match and closing costs for the purchase transaction is \$542,619; and

WHEREAS, should the Friends assign the right to purchase the property to the Wildlife Conservation Board, in lieu of the grant, the Conservancy would enter into an inter-agency agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board to provide the funds to them; and

WHEREAS, this acquisition is exempt from further CEQA review pursuant to sections 15061 (b) (3), 15313, 15316, and 15325 of the Code of Regulations, Title 14;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved in regular session of the Governing Board of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy that the Board approves a local assistance grant or, alternatively, an inter-agency Agreement with the Wildlife conservation Board not to exceed \$542,619 to the Friends to assist with the acquisition; and

BE IT FURTHER resolved, that this grant is contingent upon: (1) the appraisal's being approved by the Department of General Services, which will review the appraisal for use by WCB in approving a Section 6 grant; (2) WCB approves the Section 6 grant; (3) Friends is unable to secure other cash or in-kind matching sources; (4) Seller can provide clear title to the Friends or the state; and (5) a site inspection reveals no hazardous material or dumping on the site that Seller does not agree to pay for removing prior to close of escrow.

BE IT FURTHER resolved, that a condition of the grant is that the Friends shall enter into an Acquisition Grant Agreement with the Conservancy, which shall contain provisions requiring the following:

1. That the Friends will agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Conservancy and the State of California, its contractors, officers, directors, agents or employees against any and all claims, liability, demands, damages, debts, judgments, costs, or expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of or in any way connected to the Grantee's actions, omissions, or other conduct relating in any way to this agreement and the Real Property, including, but not limited to, any such losses, damages, or expenses arising out of (a) loss of or damage to the Real Property, and (b) injury to or death of persons;
2. That the Friends shall execute and record a Notice of Unrecorded Grant Agreement and execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Conservancy designed to assure that the properties acquired with the grant sum shall be protected, maintained, and managed consistent with the Conservancy's mission as defined in Public Resources Code Section 33501;
3. That the Friends must return all funds not used for the acquisition purpose described above no later than January 31, 2011, unless both parties mutually agree in writing to an extension;
4. That the Friends shall not convey title or any other interest in the properties acquired with the grant sum to any other person or entity without the express written approval of the Conservancy;
5. That upon the sale or conveyance of any interest in the property acquired with the grant sum, the Friends shall reimburse the Conservancy for the full amount of the grant sum unless the funds received from the sale or conveyance are less than the amount of the grant sum, whereupon the Friends shall provide the Conservancy with all funds obtained from the sale or conveyance less costs incurred by the Friends arising from the sale or conveyance;

6. That if the Friends ceases to exist as an organization or if the Friends materially breaches the grant agreement, title to the properties acquired with the grant sum shall automatically be conveyed to the State of California upon approval by the State Public Works Board;
7. That the Friends shall maintain accounting records of how the grant sum was spent for a period of three years and shall make such records available for inspection by the Conservancy or the Department of Finance upon request by either agency;
8. That the Conservancy shall review and approve all documents pertaining to the acquisition of the properties described above, including but not limited to title reports obtained by Friends prior to acquisition of said properties; and
9. That any unused grant funds must be returned to the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, along with any accrued interest, not later than one month after the project completion date. Should interest be earned on the grant funds between their disbursement and expenditure for the purchase of the property, the interest may be applied toward the purchase price. Otherwise, any such interest must be paid to the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy. No revenue will be generated by Grantee from the property acquired with the grant funds.

BE IT FURTHER resolved that the Board hereby authorizes its Chairperson, or in his absence the Executive Director, to execute any and all documents necessary to effect the grant.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Governing Board, held on this 12th day of July 2010, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

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Jim Ferguson, Chairman  
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

## **ATTACHMENT 3 – July 12, 2010**

### **Agenda Item 7.1      Written Reports from Staff**

The state's furlough program has been terminated, and Conservancy staff are no longer required to take the first three Fridays of each month as unpaid days off.

The legislation dedicating a portion of Highway 74 in the National Monument as the Roy S. Wilson Memorial highway was "chaptered" by the Secretary of State. A contribution has already been received to pay for the signs and Caltrans is working on the production of them. Assemblyman Nestande's office is coordinating with the City of Palm Desert to have a dedication ceremony. As you may recall, the resolution co-authored by Assemblyman Nestande and Senator Denise Ducheny was jointly requested by the Conservancy, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, and the Friends of the Desert Mountains. Katie O'Connor of the Friends' staff is to be appreciated for her work in coordinating among the three entities and with the Assemblyman's staff. The Conservancy will send a letter of thanks to the Assemblyman and Senator Ducheny.

Conservancy staff has continued to assist the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission with its acquisition program in our capacity as its Acquisitions Manager. Since the Commission's initial acquisitions in 2009, Conservancy staff has facilitated the acquisition of 1,055 acres of land for the Commission with a total value of \$11,331,660. Three additional acquisitions totaling 213.60 acres are in escrow and two additional acquisitions totaling 184.47 acres are on CVCC's July agenda for consideration. The foregoing acquisitions have used, or will use, over \$4 million of federal Section 6 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund and Environmental Enhancement Mitigation grant funds. Because of our success in expending the federal grant funds, CDFG and USFWS are preparing new Section 6 grant proposals to assist with implementing the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (CV MSHCP/NCCP). These grant proposals could exceed more than \$7 million. The President's budget includes \$1.7 million in Land and Water Conservation Fund money for BLM for acquisitions in the Morongo Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern and \$500,000 for acquisitions in the National Monument. If Congress approves these items in the budget, the funds would become available to BLM after the beginning of the federal fiscal year on October 1.

Pursuant to a contract with the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission, Conservancy staff also continues preparation of Management Plans for the 6 units of the Reserve System established under the CV MSHCP/NCCP.

In May, a dedication ceremony was held for the Frank Bogert Trailhead facility in Palm Springs. The trailhead was constructed on land acquired by the Friends of the Desert Mountains with a grant from the Conservancy. Using a grant from Southern California Edison, the Friends subsequently contracted with the Conservancy to design and oversee the construction of the trailhead facility. Geary Hund did an exceptional job doing that work. The trailhead facility was then constructed with funds contributed by Desert Riders, Southern California Edison and the Friends. Buford Crites played a key role in obtaining funds for the

construction of the facility. The City of Palm Springs helped expedite the permitting process and agreed to help operate the facility. BLM also cooperated with the project and has now taken title to the land, which is in the National Monument.

CVAG's OHV Enforcement Task Force Program is on hiatus until additional funding is received. CVAG has submitted a grant application. If the grant is approved, funding would likely be available in late September or early October. A representative from the State Off Highway Vehicle Division is coming to the desert in late August. The representative will discuss programs and funding opportunities.